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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16D1/08 F16C F16C35/073 F16C35/077 F16C35/02 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) F16D F16C G11B IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1 - 4X vol. 0090, no. 22 (M-354) 30 January 1985 (1985-01-30) -& JP 59 166711 A (TAIHOU KOGYO KK; others: 01), 20 September 1984 (1984-09-20) abstract; figures 3-5 Α US 4 981 390 A (CRAMER JR ARTHUR A ET AL) 1-7 · X 1 January 1991 (1991-01-01) column 2, lines 27-35 column 4, line 60 - column 5, line 9; figure 7 1 - 4.6EP 0 554 144 A (NADELLA) Α 4 August 1993 (1993-08-04) column 4, line 46 - column 5, line 12; figure 3a Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. X Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as, specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international lifing date but *&* document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 16 July 2004 13/09/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax. (+31-70) 340-3016 BEGUIN, C

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